

November 2021

Meredith & district News

OUR FREE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



inside

- We Meet the new Parish Priest
- We're all invited to a Fire Safety Workshop
- Residents Speak Up for the Police Paddocks
- Roy Ritchie Turns 80 in the West



Still time to get your
FREE seeds
...see inside

e: news@meredithnews.com.au w: meredithnews.com.au



COMMUNITY UPDATE

November 2021

Moorabool North Wind Farm

Progress to date

- Up to 75MW (27 turbines) operating

Look ahead

- AEMO Compliance (Hold Point) testing to continue – increased operations, later this year

Moorabool South Wind Farm

Progress to date

- Pre-Commissioning of all Fifty-Four (54) turbines complete

Look ahead

- AEMO Compliance (Hold Point) testing to begin later this year, leading to operations

Landscape and Visual Screening Program

Owners of residential dwellings within 4km of the Moorabool Wind Farm are invited to participate in a landscape and visual screening program.

This is to assist those closest neighbours in reducing the potential visual impacts of the project. All agreed works are undertaken by Moorabool Wind Farm at no cost to dwelling owners.

Public Road Resurfacing at Moorabool South Wind Farm

Sections of Mount Wallace Ballark Road and Bungeeltap South Road are being resurfaced. This involves road closures and speed reductions along sections of the roads for a period of time.

Further information is provided on the project website, www.mooraboolwindfarm.com, and to those registered for SMS notifications. To register for notifications, please email info@mooraboolwindfarm.com with your mobile phone details.

Moorabool Wind Farm Contact Details

The Moorabool wind farm Information Centre at 120 Inglis Street, Ballan is now closed permanently. The team at Moorabool are still available to respond to questions, queries, or complaints.

To contact us or to register for future electronic project updates and newsletters please use the following methods:



- 1800 019 660
- info@mooraboolwindfarm.com
- via Helen Kennedy, Community Engagement Manager at helenkennedy@goldwindaustralia.com

Community Fund May 2022

The next funding round will open in May 2022. Guidelines are available on the project website.

For further information visit:
www.mooraboolwindfarm.com,
info@mooraboolwindfarm.com or
call: 1800 019 660.

The VIRUS and us

FOR ALL OUR SAKES, GET THAT JAB

As we go to press, restrictions are being relieved, especially for metro folk. Strangely, we are about where we were this time last year in terms of what's permissible. But probably a little more circumspect, having learnt something about the slippery nature of virus mutations. Nonetheless, there are grounds for optimism, given the surge in vaccinations and the protection they offer against serious infection.

Perhaps our more immediate challenge is a social one, as we adjust to the demands of some freedoms related to immunisation status. Apart from the by now familiar but time consuming process required entering most premises, we read of tension and divisions caused by mandatory vaccination in work places and elsewhere.

Yet the simple truth, as evidenced here and overseas, is those who have not yet been vaccinated are not only at greater risk of infection and serious illness, but also put others around them at risk. So please, if you have been hesitant about getting the jab, for all our sakes, but especially your own, get it now. If you still have some concerns, talk to a doctor



"FREE HAMMOCKS, all over town. It's like a miracle!"

THIS MONTH

There is quite a lot of gardening news and advice. Just right for this time of year. And, equally timely, how to prepare for the bushfire season. Roy introduces us to the lovely custom of "neighboring" in long ago Scotland. Some readers might recall similar practices among the farming families of past times.

And you can still collect some free giant pumpkin seeds for your November garden and have a shot at the Competition.



COMMUNITY

Morrisons Recreation Reserve

Notice is given of a Public Meeting to be held at the Morrisons Recreation Reserve on Sunday 14th November 2021 at 10.00 am

The purpose of the meeting is to nominate no less than three (3) or more than nine (9) persons as a committee of management for the Morrisons Recreation Reserve for a term of three years. The current committee's term will expire on 17th December 2021. All positions will be declared open and nominations will be accepted prior to or on the day. Nominations from women, Aboriginal people, people with disabilities, young people and people with culturally diverse backgrounds are encouraged.

Further information, nomination forms and nominee declaration forms may be obtained by contacting your local Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning office, or at the meeting.

For further enquiries please contact the Secretary, Steve Gourdon, on 0439 131 682



**CREATORS & CRAFT MARKET
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NOVEMBER, 2021**

FROM: 10.00AM - 2.00PM

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GELONG SHEPPARD ROAD, BANNOCKBURN

**STALL HOLDER ENQUIRIES CONTACT
NOELINE ON:**

0427 923 934 or 

ccbanno@bigpond.com





The Meredith and District News is published by a volunteer sub-committee of the Meredith Community Centre comprising: Jim Elvey, (general editor and chair) Dawn Macdonald, Stefania Parkinson, Ian Penna, Mike Palmer, Sue Higgs and Alex Hyatt. Production is undertaken by alternating teams comprising Pam Ridd, Peter Boer, Don Atherton and Jim Elvey.

NEWS & VIEWS

Subject to the conditions outlined below, contributions accompanied by the contributor's name (which will also be published) and contact details, are most welcome. Please email to news@meredithnews.com.au or deliver to the Meredith Post Office or Meredith Hub

DATES AND DEADLINES

The Newsletter is distributed on the **first Thursday** of the month (except January). All ads and submissions must be lodged by 9.00 am on the **last Thursday** of the preceding month, but earlier is **really** appreciated.

ADVERTISING

Advertising in the M&D Newsletter is a great way to let district residents know about your business. Contact us for full details and lodgement forms. Rates, excluding GST, are as follows:

	B&W/Colour
Business Card	\$20.00
Quarter page	\$30.00
Half page	\$50/\$110
Full page	\$100/\$200

A \$20 loading applies for preferred position. Please submit in jpeg format, if available.

Classifieds are **FREE** for small, personal notices from residents. Otherwise \$7.50 on invoice or \$5.00 if paid on lodgement. Community Groups can have a 1/4 page ad for free or a \$30.00 discount on larger ads. (conditions apply)

SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you are outside our delivery area you can subscribe for \$35.00 p.a. plus GST (11 issues) and get the Meredith and District News posted to you anywhere in Australia.

CONTACT US

Post Office, Meredith, 3333

Advertising: Ian 0409 016815

advertising@meredithnews.com.au

Accounts: Mike 0419 307044

accounts@meredithnews.com.au

Editorial: Jim: 0409 163169

news@meredithnews.com.au

WEB

You can check back copies and lodge comments at meredithnews.com.au

ONLINE PHOTOS

We do not publish children's photos online. If you would like any other photo that you appear in withheld from the online edition, let us know in writing by the second Thursday of the month of publication.

DISCLAIMER

The opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the publishers. The publishers may edit or reject contributions and accept no responsibility for errors or omissions

Issue Production: *Don Atherton* Editor: *Jim Elvey*

connect

ADVANCE
MEREDITH
0409 027 359

ANGLING CLUB
0419 248 660

B'BURN ART
GROUP
0410 808 483

BLUE LIGHT
DISCO
5286 1222

BOOK CLUB
5286 8201

CFA
000 for fire calls
Elaine
0409 861 296
Meredith
5286 1502
Morrisons
0417 770 765

CHILDCARE
5286 0700

COMMUNITY
CENTRE
5286 0700

CRICKET
Elaine
0448 291074
Junior
(U16,U14,13)
0448 291074
Meredith
5286 1434

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SCOUTS
Anakie
52819497

ELAINE HALL
[elainetownhall@
gmail.com](mailto:elainetownhall@gmail.com)

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Seniors 0408 545
246
Juniors 0430 587 674

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0407 795 342
HISTORY GROUP
5286 8201

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0409 862 326
MEMORIAL HALL
0409 662106

MOTORCYCLE
CLUB
0437 009 250

PLAYGROUP
5286 0700

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PADDOCKS
5286 1273

RSL - 5286 1452

SENIOR
CITIZENS
5286 8232

TENNIS
Elaine
0448 291 074
Lethbridge
52 817 321
Meredith
0424754179

SEW 'N' SEWS
5286 0700

FRIENDS OF THE
BRISBANE
RANGES
5286 1252

emergency

Police, Ambulance, Fire	000
(from mobile phone)	000 or 112
Meredith Police Station	5286 1222
Police non emergency	131 444
Power Failure	132 412
Nurse-On-Call	1300 606 024
Mental Health Advice	1300 280 737
Poisons Information	13 11 26
Barwon Water	1300 656 007
SES Emergency - flood & storm	132 500
24 Hour Helpline	1800 629 572
24 Hour Drug & Alcohol Counselling	1800 888 236
Kids Help Line	
24hr 5-18yo	1800 551 800
Golden Plains Shire	1300 363 036
a/h emergency	0408 508 635
Ranger	52207111
	or 0409 830 223
Bannockburn Vet	5281 1221
a/h emergency	0407 811 222
Golden Plains Animal	5281 2226
Pets and Horses 24/7	0421 617 238

Justices of the Peace

Mr Don Atherton.	0409 869 960
Mr Paul Ryan Elaine	0409 861 296

services

CEMETERY TRUST 5286 1550	MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH 5220 7230
HALL HIRE Meredith Memorial 5286 1545 Elaine Mechanics elainetownhall@ gmail.com Elaine Rec Res 5341 5703	PRE-SCHOOL 5286 0722 PRIMARY SCHOOL 5286 1313 RECREATION RESERVE 0429 315 575
LIBRARY VAN 5272 6010	

..or start something.

If you have a special interest you would like to share with like minded people, let us know



For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.

- Nelson Mandela

How's Y' Pumpkins?

November is really your last opportunity to get those seeds in the ground as pumpkins need 4-5 months of warm growing conditions to ripen. Call into the Community Pantry at the back of the Community Garden for your seeds- follow the signs!

Judging will be in April next year for the **Largest Pumpkin** (circumference) and **Heaviest Pumpkin** in the following categories:

- Adult
- Child - Kindergarten and younger
- Prep/Grades 1/2
- Grades 3/4/5/6

There will also be prize for the **Best Decorated Pumpkin** by a child and an adult.

And we will have a display table to show any different varieties of pumpkins, ones which may be unusually shaped or particularly fine specimens. Bring them along and show them off.

...and some tips on coming out on top.

Remember Pumpkins are hungry feeders so dig plenty of compost and well rotted manure into a wide area where they will grow, and make a mound

- Choose a sunny spot
- Look out for seedlings after a week or two and remove all except the strongest seedling
- Feed with liquid fertiliser every 2 weeks



Celeste and Savannah, above, replenishing the supply of seeds in the Community Pantry




MEREDITH

DO YOU KNOW YOUR FIRE RISK?

REGISTER TO JOIN OUR ONLINE SESSION OR WATCH THE REPLAY IN YOUR OWN TIME

FIRE SAFETY INFORMATION

CFA will be there to help answer your questions about how to be best prepared this fire season.

Date: Wednesday 24th November 2021
Time: 7:30pm - 8:30pm

Register at: <https://bit.ly/3jZqZF9>
or on the QR code below



Bushfires happen every year. Spend 1 hour learning how you can keep you, your family and your friends safe from fire this season.

- Could a fire reach my place?
- What if the road is closed?
- Will someone knock on my door to tell me to leave?
- What about the kids?
- What about my pets?

For more information contact:
CFA Community Safety
South West Region
swrcommunitysafety@cfa.vic.gov.au

Before burning off, ensure:

- You're following CFA and Council regulations
- You notify your neighbours Check the weather forecast for the day of the activity and a few days afterwards.
- Establish a fire break of no less than three metres
- There are enough people to monitor, contain and extinguish the burn safely and effectively.
- You notify your local brigade

Visit cfa.vic.gov.au for full details

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Classifieds

First insertion of small ads are FREE to district residents

WANTED - Old hay suitable for garden mulching..... large quantity would be great. Contact Lindy in Steiglitz 5281 9390

Church News



Meredith Uniting Church

Services have recommenced. 11.00 am 2nd Sunday each month. Enquiries:

Rev. Paul Sanders 0407 833 515 5341 2440

Catholic Archdiocese of Australia Elaine -5341 5544

Serbian Orthodox - 5341 5568

Worship on Sundays in the Anglican Parish of Inverleigh+Bannockburn+Meredith:

9.00 am Holy Communion St Paul's, Inverleigh

11.00 am Family Communion. St John's, Bannockburn

5.00 pm Prayer and Praise Epiphany, Meredith

Find us at: www.goldenplainsanglican.org or

office.ibm@goldenplainsanglican.org

The Revd Dr Timothy Smith

PiC Anglican Parish of

Inverleigh+Bannockburn+Meredith

St. Joseph's Catholic Parish of Meredith

Contact Details:

Parish Priest Father Joseph mob. 0404 598 558

Office Phone: 5286 1230

Office open Wednesday & Friday 9.30am to 4.30 pm

Mass Times:

Bookings required: Mary 0424037542 at Meredith, Pat 52811354 at Bannockburn, Margaret 0418983005 at Winchelsea, Margaret 0493085163 at Anakie

QR check-ins, proper sanitising/hygiene mandatory

Masks required

Tue and Thurs 9 am St Mary MacKillop, Bannockburn

9.30-10.30 am Fr Joseph available for enquiries

Wed and Friday 11 am St. Joseph's, Meredith

Sat. 5 pm Vigil, St. John the Baptist, Winchelsea

Sun. 9 am St. Mary MacKillop, Bannockburn (must be double vaccinated)

Sun. 7/11, 21/11, 11 am St. Joseph's, Meredith

Sun. 14/11, 28/11, 11 am St. Brigid's Anakie

Sun. 28/11, 4 pm Sacred Heart, Inverleigh

Other Sacraments:

Reconciliation, Anointing, Baptisms, Matrimony, Funerals call: 5286 1230 for details.

Sacramental program (Reconciliation, Eucharist, Confirmation) will be operating. Call the office for details/timing/ enrolment for 2022.

Father Joseph Panackal

Marg Cooper

Father Joseph Panackal, a very well-educated young man, has just moved to Meredith as the Parish Priest. He has been in Australia for three and a half years - finding Australia to be a beautiful country and the people to be very friendly. He started his work in Meredith on October 6th and is looking forward to his time in the Parish, travelling between Winchelsea, Bannockburn, Anakie and Meredith.



Joseph grew up in Kerala in southern India. He describes Kerala as unlike some other parts of India. There is 100% literacy and most people go on to tertiary education. Catholicism is the common religion because missionaries from Portugal colonised that area of India before 1500.

In Year 5 he declared his intentions of becoming a priest and after Year 10 he entered the Seminary, which was about six hours from where his family lived. He

spent 13 years there. Of the 21 students who started with him only two completed their education to become priests. The first two years he was taught basic spirituality and English, then he completed a Bachelor of Sociology, followed by a Bachelor of Philosophy, followed by a Bachelor of Theology and a Masters in Social Work. He spent six months as a Deacon in a Parish in India, and 4½ years as a Priest in India before the Archbishop of Melbourne, Dennis Hart, asked his superiors in India if any priests were willing to come to Australia. Joseph readily accepted.

Joseph loved to watch India play Australia at cricket, and he had seen television reports of Australian bushfires. He says that every kid in India plays cricket; a few stumps on the road, a bat and some kids and you have a game. He was first posted as assistant Priest at Melton South and Bacchus Marsh and then he was posted, as assistant, to St Mary's in Geelong. He loves the beaches in Australia and the unusual flora and fauna.

Joseph loves to cook but prefers gas to electricity on which to cook. The Friday staff at St Joseph's are looking forward to some of his creations. He is very social, is not an introvert, plays table tennis, would like to learn to play tennis, to go fishing and to do some cycling and he loves to travel - and may even enjoy flower gardening. He has travelled to many parts of India.

With a Masters in Social Work, he wants to encourage and support both young and old in the Parish. He intends to help people to help themselves. Although he video chats with his family in India, he now considers the people in his Parish to be his family.



Meredith Community Centre
working for our community

What's On



COMING UP

Polymer Clay Succulents with Allie
Saturday November 13 - 1pm - \$75

Cheesemaking with Narelle
Monday November 15 - 11am - \$120

Fermentation with Narelle
Monday November 22 - 11am - \$120

Christmas Baking with Mayan
Tuesday November 23 - 11am - \$50

Polymer Clay Christmas Decorations with Allie
Saturday December 4 - 1pm - \$75

VIC ROADS SAFETY SESSION - Safe Driver
November 16 - 1.30 - 2.30 - FREE

WEEKLY EVENTS

Tai Chi - \$15 per session

Tuesdays @ Meredith with Sandra - 9.30 - 10.30 am
Tuesdays @ Bannockburn with Desma - 9.30 - 10.30 am
Thursdays @ Teesdale with Desma - 9.30-10.30 am

Steady Feet - \$10 per session

Wednesdays - 9.30 - 10.30 am

KIDS ON TOUR - NGV

More Information to Follow Soon!

Young Artists with Jen Jones

Thursdays 4:30 - 6.00pm - \$20 per session

Playgroup

Thursdays - 9.30 - 11.30 - \$2 per family

To Book:

learnlocal@meredithcommunitycentre.com.au
www.facebook.com/MeredithCommunityCentre
Ph. 5286 0700 / 0491 184 999



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OCCASIONAL CARE SESSIONS:



MONDAY - 9:15 - 2:15
WEDNESDAY - 9:15 - 2:15
FRIDAY - 9:15 - 2:15

Meredith Golf Club

Free membership - for all residents of Meredith and surrounding area
for the months of November and December 2021.

Come and enjoy the start of daylight saving in the tranquil surroundings of your
local Golf course, on any day, at any time.

To accept this offer please call the numbers below to register your details:

Peter - 0407 795 342, or

Denis - 0428 289 313

Regular social golf is played on Tuesdays at 9:30 (ladies) and Sundays at 10:30 am
(men).

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Landcare News

Bamganie - Meredith



Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting for the Bamganie-Meredith Landcare Group was held via ZOOM on Wednesday 20 October 2021. As Mat noted in the Presidents report, even though this has been a very interrupted year for everyone, we were able to conduct two successful events, the Rabbit Control Workshop in April, and the agroforestry tour to Bambra in May. Both events were well attended, with very positive feedback from both. The Group equipment continues to be used regularly by group members preparing areas for tree planting and controlling weeds.

The elected office bearers and committee for 2021-2020 are:

President:	Mat Fisher
Vice President:	Rob McColl
Secretary:	Maddy McColl
Treasurer:	Nerida Anderson
Committee members:	Julie Cameron Duncan Blair Sandra Pearce

Participants Needed For Rabbit Control Program

Did you know that 12 rabbits can eat as much as one sheep over the course of a year? Or that rabbits can outcompete native wildlife for habitat and food resources, with over 300 threatened species adversely affected by competition and land degradation caused by rabbits? Effective control of rabbit populations requires a collaborative approach using best management practices.

The Moorabool Catchment Landcare Group has obtained funding to run a rabbit control program in the Meredith-Sheoaks-Steiglitz area. The Group is currently looking for participants to be a part of the program. If you are interested in participating in this program, or for further information, please contact Jackson Casson 0497 770 075 or moorabool.landcare@gmail.com.

Fire Safety Essentials Workshop

It is that time of year when we must turn our minds to the ever-present threat of wildfire, particularly after such a good growth year. In conjunction with the Bamganie Meredith Landcare group the CFA will hold a Fire Safety Essentials workshop at the Meredith Recreation Reserve on Wednesday 24 November 2021 at 7:30. The Fire Safety Essentials is CFA's entry level bushfire safety program. The interactive session, running for around 45 to 60 minutes, will pose questions such as:

- Could a fire reach my place?
- What if the road is closed?
- What about the kids?
- Will someone knock on my door to tell me to leave?
- What about my pets?

The session uses storytelling and local knowledge to challenge participants to personalise their fire risk and to

survive fire. The program also includes basic explanations of fire behaviour and an overview of last resort options.

The interactive session will be run as a Landcare group activity. You can also register to replay the session at another time, go to <https://bit.ly/3jZqZf9>.

For more information about the Fire Safety Essentials workshop contact:

CFA Community Safety. South West Region
swrcommsafety@cfa.vic.gov.au

Christmas Break Up Dinner Wednesday 8 December

It is almost Christmas - 2021 has proved to be a pretty challenging and disrupted year for all of us. One thing we have missed is the opportunity to catch up with those in our community. To celebrate the end of the year and welcome the promise of a more open and active 2022, our December meeting will be a dinner at the Royal Hotel at 7pm on Wednesday 8 December 2021. Dinner will be free for all financial members of the Bamganie Meredith Landcare Group, or \$25 for non-members. This is a great opportunity to share ideas about Landcare and the sort of activities you would like to see in 2022. Come and join us, everyone is welcome, but bookings are essential for catering purposes. To book a place please contact Maddy 0424754179 or Nerida 0409335693, or email meredithlandcare@gmail.com.

For more information about the Bamganie Meredith Landcare Group including meeting dates please see our Facebook page or contact us at meredithlandcare@gmail.com.

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Prep 20 mins Cook 15 mins

Makes 12 Cookies

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter (115g) melted
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 110g milk chocolate chunks
- 110g dark chocolate chunks

Method

1. In a large bowl, mix together the sugars, salt and butter until a paste forms with no lumps.
2. Whisk in the egg and vanilla, beating until light ribbons fall off the whisk and remain for a short while before falling back into the mixture.
3. Sift in the flour and baking soda, then fold the mixture with a spatula. (Be careful not to overmix, which would cause the gluten in the flour to toughen resulting in a cakier cookie).
4. Fold in the chocolate chunks then chill the dough for at least 30 minutes. For a more intense toffee-like flavor and deeper colour, chill the dough overnight. The longer the dough rests the more complex its flavour will be.
5. Preheat the oven to 180. Line baking sheets with baking paper.
6. Use an ice cream scoop to scoop the dough onto the baking paper. Leave at least 10cm of space between cookies.
7. Bake for 12-15 minutes or until edges have started to barely brown.

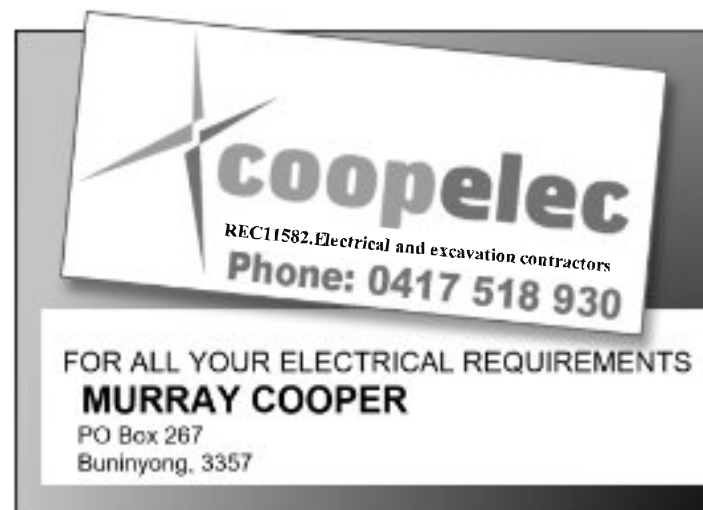
Recipe from: tasty.co

Stefania



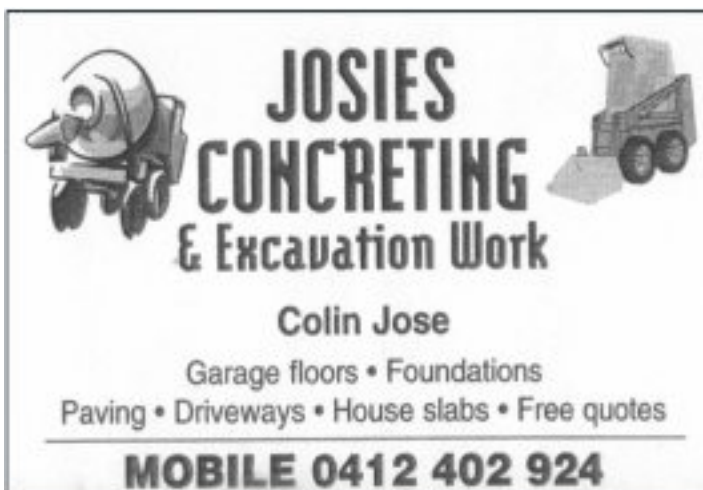
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Career Opportunities with us!

We currently have multiple roles available in our Ballarat office and would love to hear from anyone interested!

- Qualified Accountant
- Property Lawyer
- Conveyancer
- Commercial Lawyer
- Internal Accounts Officer
- Senior Client Services Manager (Geelong Office)
- Client Service Manager
- Traineeship - Business or Mortgage Broking

Mulcahy & Co staff from every part of our business work together to define us, what's important to us, and what reflects our people and culture.

We're inspired by potential – for individuals, teams and clients – captured in our vision: *'Helping committed clients achieve and maintain financial security'.*

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Our 12 Steps to Success



Hello Meredithian's, wow it is November already and AMA has a few exciting projects planned for Christmas this year.

Firstly, Christmas sheep. Sorry, due to Covid19 once again this year we are limited in our capacity to fabricate our MDF Community Christmas Sheep, we do hope to have 20 or so MDF sheep available and 10 or so old metal corry sheep (depending on sheet supply) on Saturday 27th Nov 10-3 out front of MHIG in Staughton St. Price \$12 each

Once again, the Christmas light Competition is on. There are 2 categories – Business & Personal. So light up Meredith this Christmas and let's spread the Christmas Cheer. Judging to be week prior to Christmas. Prizes

Christmas Corner will be set up in its full glory again this year, if you'd like to assist you will be most welcome. The Working Bee to repaint, fabricate and design will be Saturday 13th November 10-1pm. Meet at rear of Meredith History Interest Group in Staughton st.

And then Installation Day will be Saturday 4th 10.00 am. Meet at rear of MHIG to collect items then we head over to the corner to have some fun with trees, Santa, sleigh, sheep and nativity.

As part of the display this year will be your upcycled | recycled Christmas tree. The upcycled tree may even earn you some Christmas cheer! So – drop off your creation on Dec 4th 10am – 1pm. Rules? They just need to be made of items you have at home, old tyres, metal, straw, pallets, etc. Only suggestion make it waterproof as it will be outside.

We may have an extra special visitor travelling around Meredith on Christmas, check out our Facebook page and next month's newsletter issue

The planned Bush Dance has been postponed due to ongoing covid lockdowns, rules and regulations, and it is proposed that we hold a Covid Normal Street Party (Australia Day) on Saturday 22nd Jan. Bands, stalls, kids' events, business stalls, dinner. All Free. etc. Stay tuned to newsletter and Facebook for updates.

Don't forget that AMA is also the local body that holds the Golden Plains Shire's Community Seed money. As a community we receive \$7500 each three years to spend on projects that benefit Meredith community. The Community Coordinators (of which many are members of AMA) oversee the allocation of funds, so if you have a community project or event you need some funds, please contact us with your proposal.

New members always welcome.

We meet formally monthly, but sometimes more often if we have a project on the go.

Follow us on Facebook: Advance Meredith Association to stay up to date on community events.

E: advancemeredit@gmail.com

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Cr Helena Kirby

From the Mayor



It's hard to believe it's already been one year since the Council election and our Councillor group was sworn in for the 2020-2024 term.

In spite of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, Council has continued to get on with the job and deliver the essential services and projects our residents expect.

When a new Council is elected, almost immediately it is tasked with the critical job of developing a Council Plan. With the benefit of the Community Vision 2040 to guide us, Council undertook a significant program of community engagement, talking to residents about their priorities for the next four years, and developed the Council Plan 2021-2025.

The past year has also been a passionate year of advocacy and sharing the story of Golden Plains, resulting in another record year for government investment. While there are too many to detail here, highlights include the Golden Plains Youth Hub, Ross Creek Play and Active Rec Upgrade, Digital Hub in Smythesdale, Inverleigh Change Rooms Upgrade and playground upgrades in Rokewood, Dereel, Haddon and Garibaldi.

In our large rural Shire, road infrastructure is critically important and this year, it was great to see bridge works in Rokewood, Meredith and Rokewood Junction, with significant road upgrades in Mount Mercer and Meredith.

It has been my honour to serve as Mayor for the first year of this term, as we have consulted, planned and begun delivery on our commitments to the Golden Plains community.



The deadline for copy is
9.00 am on the
last Thursday
of the preceding month

healthS+VE pharmacy

Bannockburn Pharmacy Newsletter

Proprietors: Scott Wilkes & Damian Bennett

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Be prepared this flu season (Vaccination Clinic)

We now have the 2021 influenza (flu) vaccines available.

Our pharmacists, Scott, Priji & Tracey are accredited to provide and administer flu vaccinations (10 years & older) & whooping cough vaccinations in the pharmacy. Our vaccination clinic is open during the following times:

Monday: 10:00am - 6:00pm	Tuesday: 10:00am - 6:00pm
Wednesday: 10:00am - 6:00pm	Thursday: 9:00am - 4:00pm
Friday: 10:00am - 6:00pm	

'AFTER HOURS' flu clinics will be available too. Follow us on Facebook to see when these will be happening.

Everything is done from start to finish within the pharmacy. It is requirement for your safety that you need to rest in the pharmacy for 15 minutes after your vaccination has been administered so please allow extra time for this.

* Flu vaccination cost

- No prescription is required from your Doctor
- \$25 (\$15 for the flu vaccination + \$10 for the administration of the vaccine by one of our accredited pharmacists)
- FREE flu vaccine + \$10 for the administration by one of our accredited pharmacists if you fall into one of the following categories:
 - (i) Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children aged 6 months to <5 years.
 - (ii) Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander persons aged ≥ 15 years
 - (iii) All persons ≥ 65 years
 - (iv) All persons ≥ 6 months who have certain medical conditions which increase the risk of influenza disease complications; for example, severe asthma, lung or heart disease, low immunity or diabetes
 - (v) Pregnant women

* Whooping Cough vaccination cost

- No prescription is required from your Doctor
- \$47 (\$37 for the whooping cough vaccine + \$10 for the administration of the vaccine by one of our accredited pharmacists).
- FREE whooping cough vaccine + \$10 for the administration by one of our accredited pharmacists, if you fall into one of the following categories:
 - (i) pregnant women from 28 weeks gestation during every pregnancy
 - (ii) partners of women who are at least 28 weeks pregnant if the partner has not received a pertussis booster in the past 10 years
 - (iii) parents/guardians of babies born on or after 1st June 2015, if their baby is under 6 months of age and they have not received a pertussis booster in the past 10 years.

To secure a time that best suits you we recommend that you make an appointment through the pharmacy. You can either phone the pharmacy on 5281 1519 or you can bookonline through our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/bannockburnpharmacy/>

You can also just walk in but there may be a wait if someone else is already having a vaccination done.

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Wednesday:	8:30am - 6:30pm
Thursday:	8:30am - 6:30pm
Friday:	8:30am - 6:30pm
Saturday:	8:30am - 1:00pm
Sunday:	CLOSED

Vaccination Clinic – flu & whooping cough vaccinations

In the School Garden

At last it is TOMATO PLANTING time, one of the most highly anticipated times for many gardeners. This is often because growing tomatoes at home gives us an opportunity to plant different types that are not available in shops. Commercially grown produce must be sturdy and long lasting to withstand being transported to the shops and then survive being stacked on shelves and the journey home. Home gardeners can plant different varieties and generally grow them alongside other vegetable which makes them more pest resistant and a lot tastier. Sienna, Oakley and Maddy had fun digging holes to plant our tomato seedlings and are keeping an eye on them as they grow.

The Prep/Grade 1 BROAD BEAN plants are flourishing. All the care and attention when they were tiny seeds has led to strong tall plants, each with many broad beans. It has been fascinating watching them flower and produce the large pods.

November is really the last opportunity to put in your PUMPKINS. Our plants for the Newsletter GIANT PUMPKIN CHALLENGE are in the spot where we had dug in lots of compost and we are also checking our rain gauge to monitor the amount of water they are getting. Pumpkins need lots of good food and lots of water to thrive - a bit like us really.

There are still SEEDS in the Community Pantry behind the Community Garden opposite the school if you'd like to have a try.

The Grade 5/6 students have been very busy over at the COMMUNITY GARDEN since their return to school, a few weeks ago from remote learning at home. More garden beds have been constructed and filled, seeds planted, drains dug and weeds removed. The long-awaited Grand Opening will be sometime in December and is a wonderful achievement by the students, working with Linda and Chris from Hands of Change, through two very challenging years.

The RAIN and SUNSHINE we have had has led to extraordinary growth in the garden. Not only the plants have thrived though, the WEEDS (or plants that have grown in the wrong spot) have taken over, too. The "Weed Warrior" article in the October Newsletter addressed weeds in large scale areas on farms. At school we have a much smaller area to deal with and raised wicking beds make it much easier to control them. Our large Scarecrow Bed is a more traditional set up and this year we had a wonderful crop of unwanted weeds. We pulled some out to feed to our chooks who always appreciate the greenery to supplement their diet. The rest we mulched heavily with straw to smother them. While there is still the odd weed peeping through, we have found this is a successful way to smother them.

We have also taken inspiration from the "Simple Living" article from last month's newsletter. There will be no corn, cabbage or potatoes with our tomatoes, instead we

will be putting in LETTUCES to keep them happy. Our SUNFLOWERS will go in far from the potatoes but we will liberally spread NASTURTIUMS seeds in our beds. These look beautiful rambling through the garden and will last till we get one of our frosts next year.

Until next month, have a wonderful time out in your gardens enjoying the sunshine and welcoming visitors - what a heartwarming thought. If you have broad beans there is often a glut akin to the arrival of zucchini time, as both grow and produce so easily. A good way to use them is in a delicious pesto. This can be a DIP served with carrots and celery sticks or stirred through COOKED PASTA.

Broad Bean Pesto

- 2 cups broad beans podded
- 1/2 cup fresh basil leaves
- 2 tbsp lemon juice
- 1 clove garlic
- 1/2 cup grated parmesan
- 1/2 cup almonds, toasted
- 1 cup olive oil

Add broad beans to a pot of boiling water and simmer for a couple of minutes.

1. Drain and cool.
2. Put the broad beans, basil, lemon juice, garlic and almonds with a pinch of salt into a food processor and blend until roughly chopped.
3. Add in the parmesan and with the blender running, pour in the oil slowly through the top.
4. Blend to the consistency that you like - chunky or smooth.

Here's Sienna, Oakley and Maddy planting our tomatoes. Of course they'll grow, with a smiley launch like that!





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Kerry Thomson & Amanda Hyatt

SUE METCALFE

Sue Metcalfe describes herself as a 'maker' who has had an interesting ceramic/artistic journey. In between teaching Japanese language and renovating her mud brick home she loves to draw, do printing and, especially, to create pottery. She is always busy, often volunteering in a range of capacities from making wire figurine classroom aids, sets and props for school productions, being a support person during the Golden Plains Arts Trail, to helping create colourful installations around the Bannockburn Cultural Centre carpark and painting backgrounds for performances at a Maude CFA fundraiser.

As a child Sue grew up in Greensborough where she loved to make mud pies! She was always creative and this, she believes was in her blood. Her Grandfather was a weaver who didn't go to war because he made soldiers' uniforms. Her grandmother was a test knitter for Patons patterns. Whilst Sue's mum is very strong at maths, her dad builds model steam engines. He is mechanically incredible as he can see mistakes and fix them. He is currently building his third engine. In high school Sue loved ceramics and went on to study Ceramic Design at Bendigo CAE where one of her final year folio pieces (a soup tureen) was displayed at the National Gallery and actually sold for \$350 - a very impressive price for 1985!

The love of ceramics led Sue to a Traineeship with the Craft Council of Victoria and about eight months with a wood-fire specialist in Dunolly followed by time with Tim Holmes at Garden Island Creek Pottery in Cygnet, Tasmania. Here she was influenced by some Scottish and Stoke on Trent potters who had a strong English style and history. She also worked with Les Blakeborough, a porcelain specialist, at The Pot Company at Mt Nelson, Tasmania. In developing skills in this area it was about practice, practice, practice! When the traineeship ended Sue returned to Victoria to work at Sweenies Creek Pottery in Bendigo which specialised in low relief moulds used during the production process. Sue also worked in a "slip casting" factory in Hampton using liquid clay in moulds which is an old mass producing technology. This style of pottery requires careful timing to achieve the correct thickness in the finished product.

During July to September in 1990 Sue had the special experience of working with Honma Shunichi (Master

Potter), Fujisawa-cho, Iwateken, Japan. Here she was teaching people of all ages at local community halls, department stores and schools to hand build pots inspired by the prehistoric Japanese style of the Jomon period. These pots were made for a major festival and were fired raw in a traditional way in huge pits dug in the school oval. It was a very male dominated profession and Sue felt very privileged as she was allowed to help pack the kiln. The festival was a blending of old and new and the whole experience was life changing for Sue.

Back in Australia Sue and her husband set up Gatehouse Pottery at Moranghurk where she produced and sold a range of functional ceramics at local markets. The designs on these mugs, bowls, plates and other dishes incorporated subtle Japanese influences in the brush strokes and other compositional elements which were used. Sue found that the more conventional pieces were the ones which sold best but that they were less artistically satisfying to make.

A love of learning prompted Sue to continue developing her artistic talents. With full-time teaching it felt to her as if she was losing her creative identity so from 2016 to 2018 she completed a Visual Arts Certificate (drawing, painting, printmaking) at Oxygen College in Geelong. As a mature -age student Sue found it nice to mix with like-minded creative people. Her final folio for this course was in print-making where she experimented with mono and lino prints and etching. One of her pieces won the Abstract print section of the Pyrenees Art Show.



During her Arts course Sue gained a renewed interest in the human form when she picked up two old mannequins from the side of the road. These became inspirational for photographing light and shadow, and using lines, shading and layers in print works. Sue also has a fascination with portraiture (especially eyes), and a visit to Canberra Portrait Gallery saw her absorbed for ages in looking at busts and sculptures. Torso

shapes, structures, bones and skeletons, together with textures from rocks, stones and trees have been incorporated in her drawing and printed works.

Children and teaching have impacted on Sue's creative time over the years but now, and once the renovating is finished, she will have a shed for ceramics and a clean studio for drawing and print-making. A mutual interest in the Ray Finch strand of English pottery was how Sue met her husband so together they make a good mud-brick 'reno' team. It requires a huge amount of labour but together they have the knowledge and skills to mend, change and manipulate the materials used in their mud-brick home.

Sue is looking forward to getting back a work/life balance and rejuvenating her creativity. Eventually she hopes to develop her confidence enough to sell her work, especially her prints, but doesn't want to be too commercial. She will be happy to follow whatever emerges, combining ceramics, design and printmaking - and do it for personal satisfaction.



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Achieving Together in the Community Garden

What we have achieved together in our short time back at school is.....twelve new garden beds.

The first step in building the beds is to check the ground with a level to make sure it is even. With wicking beds this is important because there is a water reservoir in the bottom and if it is uneven we might drown the plants on one side and have the other too dry.

Putting the beds together required drilling in screws and rechecking the timber planks to make sure it is all level.

The beds are lined with an impermeable liner so that the water doesn't leak out and next thing the plumbing goes in. A layer of gravel is followed by soil.

It has required a lot of thought, planning and time to get it all right.

If you would like to join in, there are working bees every Thursday from 1pm to 3pm.

Email info@handsofchange.org.au so that numbers can be in accordance with current guidelines.

Look out for news of the GRAND OPENING in DECEMBER.

Written by

Celeste Canie and Savannah Thompson
Grade 5/6
Meredith Primary School

More Community
Garden news on
page 38.

Savannah and Celeste putting a new garden bed to good use.

Community Awards 2021

from media release

Nominations are now open for the Golden Plains Shire Council Community Awards 2021.

The Golden Plains Shire Council Community Awards 2021 are an opportunity to formally acknowledge extraordinary individuals and community groups who make an outstanding contribution to Golden Plains Shire.

The 2021 Awards will be presented to three individuals: Citizen of the Year, Senior Citizen of the Year, and Young Citizen of the Year. In addition, the Community Impact Award recognises the valuable contribution of a community event, project, group or team.

Nominee achievements are welcome in fields including community service, arts and culture, environment, business, economic development and sport.

Golden Plains Shire Council Mayor Helena Kirby encourages Shire residents to nominate community member whose contributions to the community make Golden Plains such a special place to live.

Nominations for the Golden Plains Shire Council Community Awards 2021 are open from Thursday 14 October to 5pm, Thursday 18 November, 2021.

The easy nomination form can be completed online on Council's website at goldenplains.vic.gov.au. Hard copies of the nomination form are available at Council's Customer Service Centres at 2 Pope St, Bannockburn or The Well, 19 Heales St, Smythesdale. To submit a nomination, complete the online form or send the completed nomination form by email to communityengagement@gplains.vic.gov.au or post to Communications & Engagement Officer, Golden Plains Shire Council, 2 Pope St, Bannockburn VIC 3331.

For more information about the GPSC Community Awards 2021, email communityengagement@gplains.vic.gov.au or call 5220 7111.

OUR COVER

This month's cover celebrates one of the fabulous wildflowers in our district. The Common Bird Orchid is among many orchids and many more wildflowers you could see any spring walking through the Brisbane Ranges. Thanks to Owen Cook for the photograph. And see Wendy's column in this issue to learn about more of the smaller delights in our local bushland.



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Neighbouring

Roy Hay

Pursuing a theme I mentioned in my last column in the News, I am remembering the notion of 'neighbouring' that I grew up with when my family moved to a tiny little village, on the fault line between the central lowlands and the southern uplands in south-western Scotland. Straiton was the centre of a vibrant farming community. Arable land in the valley of the River Girvan produced oats and barley, turnips and potatoes. Ayrshire cattle or occasionally black and white Friesians delivered milk, while black Galloways were fattened for their meat on the higher ground. The uplands were also the home of wiry little black-faced sheep. For most of the year the farms relied on the family of the tenant or owner and perhaps one farm labourer and his family, but at peak periods of labour demand—harvesting crops, sheep shearing, lifting potatoes, for example—farms would pool their resources. Though we only had a garden at the schoolhouse, my father and I would add to the labour force on the farms at weekends, while my mother would join the women both to provide the sustenance and sometimes to pitch in to the work in the fields.

Some of the farms still used Clydesdale horses to plough, pull carts and other large farm machinery—large by Scottish marginal farm standards. I still remember manoeuvring a single-furrow plough behind one of these huge animals in early spring when there was deep frost on the ground. Getting a series of straight furrows was an achievement, especially since there were rocks in the earth and the Australian stump-jump plough was not available. Lifting turnips from frozen ground was another chore. Schools still had 'tattie (potato) holidays' in October in my youth, when the students became farm labourers for a week or so.

At shearing time my jobs alternated between collecting the sheep from the rees (dry stone walled pens), and taking them to the shearer or clipper, as they were called, and acting as packer in the long sausage-shaped bags which hung from a frame close by. There was no Australian wool press either. I'd have to climb up and drop into the bag, followed by the fleeces covered in lanolin and the remains of daisies and thistles which rained down on me. I had to stamp on them, packing the bag as tight as possible and gradually rising to the top as I did so. It was ghastly smelly job. The sheep were easy to work with. They were quite light, though very strong and they came with handlebars in the shape of curled horns. It was a different matter when we neighboured with a farm down on the coast. The shearing men took great delight in putting me on the back of this large Suffolk tup (male) about as big as a Shetland pony and no handlebars. My feet did not touch the ground. They collapsed in laughter as this animal bore me off into the sunset until I could find somewhere to fall off without killing myself.

After work in the evenings in the summer when it would be daylight until eleven o'clock the farms would supply a

huge evening meal. Perhaps a pig or a calf would have been killed and butchered. Then there would be games. Each farm had a different game—badminton, tennis, croquet, bowls, skittles, football, a Scottish version of bocce and so on. Someone might produce a violin or a piano-acordion for dancing until it was too dark to see and the participants would stagger off home. I haven't mentioned it so far, but as they used to say, drink would be taken.

As a result of all this neighbourliness I had a host of courtesy aunts and uncles in the farms around the village. Holiday employment during my teenage school years was the result, though I remember causing strife for one of my 'uncles' when I declared my summer income to the tax man. He had been paying me out of his own pocket. Probably the most idyllic of these summer jobs involved




building a new fence for another uncle. I'd cycle up to the farm, pick up a tractor and trailer and drive through the hills to the bottom of Loch Braddan. I'd jump into a boat and row the length of the loch, through a narrow isthmus into Loch Lure and up to its far end. There I would uproot and collect redundant metal star posts and drift back down, meanwhile catching my lunch of brown trout on the way. As I remember this there was seldom a cloud in the sky, the fish were abundant, and the pay was good. Mind you, this was about 65 years ago and as my Vice-Chancellor at Deakin University once said to me 'memory is the most inventive faculty'.

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A spire of tiny green flowers, each only 3mm long, grows from a slit in the side of a slender onion-like leaf. As many as one hundred of these flowers form a spiral up a straight stalk which, at its tallest, reaches 40cm. Each flower is a perfect orchid with a hood at the top, a petal at each side which forms a curl, and a tongue, sometimes frilly, hanging down. They make nectar to attract insects, such as beetles, ants and small wasps, to pollinate them. These are onion orchids. They form colonies in damp places in paddocks, on the roadside and in the bush. If you are aware of them, they are easy to spot, but to many people, they are just more green stalks growing among green grass.

We often think of orchids as bold, showy flowers, but onion orchids are not the only ones that blend in with their surroundings. Small gnat orchids also grow in colonies, but they are shorter than onion orchids, and their flowers, although larger, are brown and look somewhat like flying insects with legs hanging down. It is easiest to find the round green leaves sitting on top of leaf litter, then look for the brown flower stalks, each growing up from a notch in a leaf. Each stalk may have a single flower or as many as four. Small insects spread pollen between the flowers, so that they can form seeds. The plants also grow tubers, allowing them to increase underground, often forming colonies so dense that leaves of individual plants overlap.

Gnat and onion orchid flowers are difficult to find, because of their colours. Other flowers, although brightly coloured, are rarely noticed because of their tiny size. Common raspwort is very common. The plants grow in groups in heathland, forests and on dry slopes, each a clump of stalks 10-15cm tall, growing small rough-edged leaves. In Spring and Summer, the ends of the stalks are covered in brilliant red fluffy flowers. It is not the petals that we see, but the stigma, the female part of the flower which is only a few millimetres long and receives pollen. The little plants can have a haze of red on their upper branches. If they were the size of trees, we would most likely find them stunningly beautiful.

While many tiny plants have inconspicuous flowers, there are also bushes and trees whose flowers are generally unnoticed by us. Cherry ballart, also called native cherry, is a small tree with dense bright green, slightly yellowish foliage. Its leaves are only half a millimetre long and it uses its stems to photosynthesise. It is a hemiparasite, meaning that as well as producing its own food, it obtains some nutrients from other plants by attaching its roots to the roots of another tree. Its flowers are no bigger than its leaves and slightly yellower than its branches. Its green fruits are 4-5mm long, and only obvious because the stalks attaching them to the tree are swollen, red and juicy, much more fruit-like than the fruit. Cherry ballarts are scattered throughout the bush, and are valuable sources of food and shelter for mammals, birds and insects.

The way in which we notice many flowers is by their colours, but some attract us with their fragrance. One of these is hemp bush, so named for its fibrous bark, used by First Nations people and early settlers for making string. It has bright green leaves, heart-shaped with long pointed ends. It grows in shady places and along creeks, often well away from other plants of its species. There are two types of hemp bushes, one that produces male flowers and one that produces female flowers. The male bushes are obvious when in bloom as they are covered in flowers with creamy-white petals. The petals on the female flowers are so small that the flowers go unseen, but we can detect them by the beautiful fragrance produced by female and male bushes. Their nectar attracts native bees, beetles and butterflies which spread pollen from the male plants to the female plants. Once pollinated, the female flowers develop into small hairy fruits with five seeds.

While these very small flowers are rarely noticed by us, they are important to the plants as they aid in reproduction, and important to insects for which they are a source of food. The insects are food for other insects, spiders, birds, frogs, lizards and small mammals. For us, it can be rewarding to find these tiny flowers. While walking in the bush recently, I noticed frequent patches of bright green leaves. I knew that these plants were a species of native violet, known as tiny violet or hidden violet, but I could see no sign of flowers. It wasn't until I stopped and knelt next to the plants that I noticed them. Each flower was held on a slender stalk with a bend near the top, so that it hung downwards, hidden beneath a ring of green leaf-like sepals. They looked like miniature lampshades with scalloped edges, white with a central speck of yellow, deep inside. Like so many things, the tiny can be just as beautiful as the large, bright and showy, if we take the time and effort to find it.

Time to Get Fire Ready

Media Release

With summer around the corner, it's time to ensure your property is prepared for the fire season.

Under Victorian Government legislation, Council must conduct fire hazard inspections of private properties. In Golden Plains Shire, inspection will begin on 1 November, to ensure hazard reduction works are completed before the start of the Fire Danger Period. Fire Prevention Notices will be issued for properties that do not comply, specifying the required works to be completed by Sunday 5 December, 2021.

Council will undertake second inspections from 6 December and if works have not been conducted, Council will issue a \$1,817 infringement and arrange a contractor to attend and slash the property at an additional cost.

Council will shortly begin its own fire prevention works, commencing the annual roadside slashing program of all sealed roads and strategic fire breaks to reduce fuel loads. Council also conducts burning of selected reserves to remove fire hazards. This program commences in the drier south of the Shire before moving north, with the program completed by Christmas.

For more information on Fire Hazard Inspections and Notices, visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/fire.

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Roy Ritchie celebrates his 80th birthday in the West

Marg Cooper

Eighteen months ago in the very crucial time of the beginning of the Covid pandemic Roy and Diane Ritchie, who called their Alcon park property in Bamganie home for 34 years, fled across the Nullarbor to take up residence in their new five acre property in the Swan Valley. As time has progressed and the WA border continues to be locked to almost everywhere and everyone, Diane and Roy have been unable to return for a visit. Only Robert and Wendy Cooke and Graham and Julie Morgan, who happened to be caravanning in WA for extended periods, have been able to visit them.

So as Roy's 80th birthday came along, the family thought the occasion was a fitting one to celebrate, especially since lots of friends had been unable to celebrate milestone birthdays in Victoria.

So on Saturday October 2nd, thirty two friends and neighbours gathered for a beautiful catered dinner at their home to celebrate Roy's 80 years of achievements.

Roy was born and grew up in a small town called Sandford only a few kilometres south of Casterton near the SA border. His father was of Swiss heritage and his mother Scottish. His Swiss genetics have probably shone out all his life in his predisposition to hard work, his need to be meticulous in everything he does and his liking for a well groomed and smart appearance.

Roy studied mechanics and was apprenticed to a Ford dealership after leaving High school and later in the same Ford dealership became a new car salesman. Roy was an outstanding footballer, playing some games with the Geelong Football club after being invited down by Bob Davis and playing in 4 premierships for Casterton in the Western border league, as a dashing centre half back and one premiership for Sandford. He usually won the most determined trophy and anyone who watched him play could attest to that. He married Diane in 1966 (Diane had come to the Casterton area as a school teacher) and after the drought of 69 they moved to Geelong. Roy coached Leopold in the Bellarine League and he became the general manager of the local Ford dealership. They had three children: Marcus, Nick and Emily. And after a great time in this area and at the Leopold Football Club (Roy being named captain of Leopold's Team of the Century and winning a premiership and then named the inaugural coach of the Bellarine football League) in 1986 the family moved to Alcon Park in Bamganie.

Roy continued as general manager of Colin Kerr Ford and many locals bought cars from Roy and enjoyed the luxury of Roy picking up their cars for service in the morning, and leaving them his car for the day and then delivering their serviced car home. These years were very busy for Roy, as at one time whilst working in Geelong six days a week, he worked 800 acres of land, and many times was awarded the top price at the wool sales for his fine wool. Later he reared prime lambs. Many a night Roy was pressing wool and cleaning up sheep at midnight. At the same time his growing family were busily playing sport with the boys' involved in the Meredith Cricket club. Roy

also found time to become President of the Meredith Hall Committee and assist his wife in the running of the Meredith Country Fair and many other community events such as the annual Clearing sales.

In 1997 when Colin Kerr Ford sold to Rex Gorell Ford Roy started a new chapter of his life becoming a full time farmer. He loved this time as he loved being on the land with his dogs and welcoming neighbours for cuppas and chats.

Roy is known by a few names... Reptile Roy (he was bitten by a snake at Alcon park), Roy Boy and to his Geelong friends Farmer Roy. He has been a mentor to many and is highly respected for his honesty and integrity.

His eldest son Marcus had made Perth his base even though he was working as an airline captain for Qatar Airlines, his daughter Emily is married to Michael, a Perth secondary teacher, and Nick was working overseas in the mines. So as time for retirement approached he was persuaded to move to the beautiful Swan Valley to be with the family.

The family now lives on a 5 acre property with a beautiful tropical garden which keeps Roy very busy. He had joined the VW Car Club and along with the 17 year old son of his next door neighbours he attends the monthly get togethers and the Club outings in his 1966 beetle as well as exploring many lovely areas of WA with the family.

So Roy, congratulations on a wonderful 80 years... you still look trim and fit and can put in a very long and hard day's work and make time for anyone. WHEN the WA border opens Roy will welcome lots of visitors to his home to continue the birthday celebrations.





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it's History

Meredith History Interest Group

Steiglitz Thru the Lens:

The exhibition of Steiglitz Photos is to be held at the Meredith Memorial Hall on October 30 & 31. So by the time the Newsletter is published the exhibition of Steiglitz photos will be over but the photos will still be available to be viewed at the History Centre. A lot of work has gone into mounting this exhibition including collecting, sorting and digitising photos, then trying to determine when each photo was taken by what buildings are in the photo at the time, reproducing the photos in A3 size, mounting them on matt boards and displaying them. After the exhibition MHIG will keep the photos in chronological order in folders. Come in and see them if you miss the exhibition or if you wish to have another look.

The Book:

A delightful exercise size book was gifted to MHIG last year. It is like an autograph book with different coloured matt pages decorated with cut out flowers (sadly many of these have been extracted from the book). It was created in Steiglitz in the late 1870's and early 1880's. Kerrie has intimately examined the book, has researched many of the people whose names appear in the book and created a display for the Steiglitz Photo Exhibition.

There was The Book, People of the Book, Signatures of the Book, Wisdom of the Book and Poetry of the Book. Some poetry was original and some poetry was written by famous poets like Keats.

Teaching A Fair Electrician is one of the more amusing Poems of the Book]

*She sat at the instrument solemn and staid,
For the Currents could not make her nervous,
Since she was a properly classified maid,
In the Post and the Telegraph Service.*

*She dotted and dashed from dawn until dark,
Nor from work let her thoughts ever stray,
Till a highly-charged handsome electrical spark,
Came into her office one day.*

*He was curious to learn the tricks of the trade,
And to know all the Mysteries of Morse,
She taught him the secrets—how contact was made,
To create the electrical force.*

*In return he explained in a manner poetic,
What love's electricity meant,*

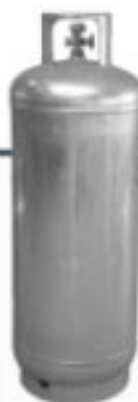
*How, when contact was made, with a speed quite magical,
To the heart of the charged one it went.*

*Explaining the meaning of what he had said,
He clasped her and made their lips meet,
In a very long dash—the contact was made,
The electrical shock was complete!*

*She liked it so well, that when daily he went,
She talked of love's magnetic force,
And when o'er the instrument slyly he bent,
And kissed her, she felt no re-Morse!*

Calendar 2022:

The 2022 calendar features stone buildings. Some are complete and some are in ruins. Some you may never have seen. The stone work is majestic and artistic. The calendar is at the printers now! Watch out for it soon.



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FROM THE ARCHIVES

HORRIBLE MURDER AT MEREDITH.

INQUEST ON THE REMAINS.

An inquest was held on the 19th instant, before Dr Clendinning, District Coroner, at the Stony Rises Hotel, Meredith, on the remains of a human body which were found near the station of Mr Hugh Morrison, Meredith, under the following circumstances:

George Toulmien, police constable, Meredith, deposed—Mr Morrison reported to me that one of his shepherds (Noah Taylor) had come across a part of a human hand covered over with bark in the bush. I accompanied Mr Morrison to where Taylor was shepherding, and went to the spot where he had found the remains, now produced, consisting of the spinal column and pelvis, with other bones more or less perfect, many of them in a burned state. Taylor stated that he had discovered these remains the night previous, and immediately reported it to Mr Morrison. But that some time back—about a month or five weeks—he had found the wheels, shafts, springs, axle-tree, and other parts of a spring cart painted green, more or less burned, which articles he has now in his possession, and that near the place where he found the remains of the cart several things were scattered about—hairpins, buckles, buttons, part of a razor, pill boxes, reels of cotton—all of which I produce and now show to the jury. I asked Taylor why he did not report the finding of those articles before together with the remnants of the cart, and he said he thought it was a break-down and was hid until the parties

could return for it; but that when he found the remains of the human body, he at once communicated the whole of what he had discovered to Mr Morrison. The bark which covered the bones was not burned, but appeared as if taken and laid over them. The body apparently had lain against a fallen tree, and the ground at and about the place where the body lay was all burned. The tree against which it lay was also partially burned. The places where the cart and bones were found were about half-a-mile apart, and there were marks of a fire at both places. The bones were found near the track from Meredith to Lal Lal, about five miles from Meredith, and about half-a-mile from the Stony Rises Hotel. The remains of the cart were near the Stony Rises, in the bush, no track near them.

Hugh Morrison deposed—On the morning of the 15th instant, I called at my shepherd's, Noah Taylor's, but found him out, and his wife told me that her husband, on coming home late the night before, had discovered what appeared to him to be the remains of a human being, and that previously he had found the remains of a spring cart away in the bush, which he imagined was a break down, and put there for a time; until he found the human bones, with the clothes partly burnt. I then went in search of Taylor, but could not find him, so I then went into Meredith, and reported the circumstance to Constable Toulmien. There was a hawker with a cart at my place the first week of August. I hear he wore a blue shirt and cord trousers. He had been a shepherd at Mr Hammond's of Bungaltap. I never heard his name. I hear that his horse—a bay horse, with a white face, is now running in the bush in this neighborhood. I have never seen the hawker since, and he stated he would be back in a month. His height was about five feet eight inches, and the hair now produced is like his.

Dr Clendinning described the portions of the body found, as being the spinal column complete, with the Pelvis attached of a human being, there were also portions of the ribs and other bones, all more or less calcined. He believed these bones to have belonged to a man of mature age. There was human blood on the clothes found near the remains, and also portions of the hair were clotted with blood.

The jury having heard the foregoing evidence, delivered the following verdict. "The bones and hair now shewn to us are human, and those of a man of mature age, and were found in the bush near the Stony Rises Hotel, on the 15th inst., within the Parish of Borhoneyghurk, but when, where, or how, or by what means the bones came there, there is no direct evidence to prove, but we believe that the person to whom said bones belonged, was murdered by some person or persons at present unknown." The Star (Ballarat, Vic. : 1855 - 1864) Tuesday 22 September 1857

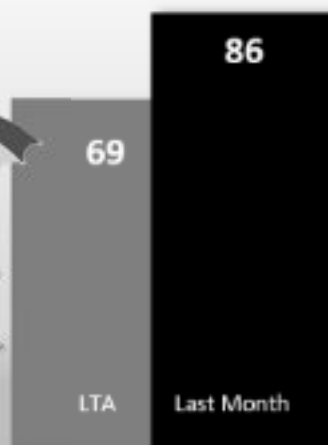
Jan McDonald, Meredith History Interest Group

the rain report

This is a rain report, so we've brought out Smiley Girl to celebrate the good mid-spring rain. If it was a wind report, well that would be a different matter!



OCTOBER Rain





Marg's BOOK REVIEW

Caravans by James Michener

This is a brilliant book. First published in 1963 it is a gripping chronicle of the social and political landscape of Afghanistan and is more relevant now than ever.

The book relates the history of Afghanistan as one of the world's great cauldrons. *Almost every building bears jagged testimony to some outrage. Some, like the walled fortress were built to withstand sieges and did so many times. Others were the scenes of horrible murder and retaliation. In distant areas the scars still remain of Alexander the Great or Ghengis Khan or Tamerlane or Nadir Shah of Persia.* The author asks, 'Was there ever a land so overrun by terror and devastation as Afghanistan?'

Caravans tells about the Afghan people. *They are inured to bloodshed from childhood, are familiar with death, excessively turbulent and unsubmissive to law and discipline but are frank and affable in manner. Nowhere is crime committed on such trifling grounds though when it is punished the punishment is atrocious.*

And there is a story. In 1946 Mark Miller, a military man, is tasked with an assignment to find a young American Woman who married an Afghan then mysteriously disappeared. The plot is not action packed or a great thriller. Its allure is more as a story which demonstrates what makes both the Afghan people and the foreigners 'tick'. Ellen Jasper, the American woman, is self-absorbed, rejects all that is America and relishes the most basic existence when she travels with nomads across central Asia, from present day Iran to India.

James Michener is well qualified to write about Afghanistan. In 1952 he was living in the Kyber Pass and had a chance to scout the Afghan border and in 1955 he entered Afghanistan and took various trips. He remembered it as 'an exciting, violent, provocative place and a place he'd like to visit again'. On one of these trips, he visited friends of a European woman who sought his help to find her. She had married an Afghan and had passed into limbo. This contact was the inspiration for writing the book.

James Michener possessed an incomparable ability to simultaneously enthrall, entertain and inform. This is one of his smaller books. Some of his bigger books which follow the history of nations over centuries are *Hawaii*, *Caribbean*, *Centennial* and *The Covenant* and my favourite *The Source* which tells the history of Judaism.

Platypus Search

Media Release

Around 60 community members in total gathered at 2 COVID safe events at Fyansford Common and Inverleigh on Sunday the 10th October to take part in a survey to detect the presence of the elusive platypus at over 30 sites in our local waterways. Great feedback was received by the enthusiastic participants, of all ages, who dodged a couple of rain showers to learn about platypus, water bugs and the health of our local rivers.

The project was initiated by the Friends of the Barwon (FOTB) with funding and support from the Tucker Foundation, Bendigo Bank, Barwon Water, Surf Coast Shire, Golden Plains Shire, City of Great Geelong, Geelong Landcare Network, Corangamite CMA (CCMA), and Upper Barwon Landcare Network. FOTB are keen to collect data to build a picture of the overall health of the Barwon River system, and identify where improvements can be made.

Josh Griffiths from EnviroDNA explained how a plentiful platypus population is a good indicator for the overall health of a river system. After demonstrating the sampling technique volunteers went out to take water samples for eDNA analysis from sites stretching across the mid Barwon river, the Leigh river and the Moorabool as well as some of the smaller tributaries feeding into these river systems.

To complement this, Deidre Murphy from the Waterwatch team at the CCMA showed participants the myriad of waterbugs living in our local waterways, which are a food source for platypus and the many other creatures living in the rivers and creeks.

EnviroDNA will now analyse the samples collected by our volunteer citizen scientists to detect the presence of platypus in the waterways. Results of the sampling will be communicated back to the community in the form of a report and webinar in the coming months.

The data collected will complement surveys already completed in the Upper Barwon Catchment and the Upper reaches of the Moorabool River catchment, giving us an overall picture of distribution of platypus over a large portion of the catchment. "This survey will connect the dots and tell an overall story which will cover the largest continuous area recorded in the state" Josh said.

If you are interested in the outcome of the survey please contact project coordinator Andrea Montgomery on glnplatypus@gmail.com for further information.



Meredith Speaks Up

Jim Elvey, Meredith Police Paddocks Support Group

For the last 14 years, Ballarat Environment Network (BEN) has managed the Meredith Police Paddocks and auspiced our group of local volunteers. The News reported last month, the uncertainty of the ongoing management arrangement and we have now learned BEN has resigned its role, leaving the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) to resume management responsibility. A few weeks ago, the Group met with DELWP personnel on site and was told the Department will not do any more than deal with safety issues and fire hazards it judged needed a response.

The Group advised DELWP the pressing short term needs are for clarity around volunteer insurance and the threat of this season's weed growth, especially gorse and periwinkle. It has not yet had a response.

In response to a letter we sent to all councillors, Golden Plains Mayor, Cr Helena Kirby, has promised to seek ways in which Council can support the Group, although nothing tangible has been offered so far.

Pleasingly though, last month's article rallied an unsolicited community response, demonstrating the site is used and cherished by many in the community.

With permission, a few of the letters written to Council are reproduced here. We are extremely grateful for this support, as it helps demonstrate to Council and DELWP, the worth of this valuable community asset.

To Golden Plains Shire Council,

At a meeting of Advance Meredith Association on Saturday, October 16, 2021 we discussed the issues pertaining to the Police Paddocks as reported in the latest Meredith Newsletter

We resolved to write to the Golden Plains Shire Council to tell them:

- that we appreciate the work of the Meredith Police Paddocks Support Group and workers in developing and maintaining an area of public land into a valuable resource for Meredith.
- that we think it is important that the Police Paddocks be retained for public use and that the committee be allowed to improve the area.
- that the Golden Plains Shire Council support the MPP Support Group by conferring with them to resolve the issues.

Advance Meredith Association (which includes Community Co-ordinators) has worked from the 1990's to make Meredith a Better Place to Live In.

The development of the Police Paddocks is important as an area of natural beauty, an area of historical interest, an area for recreation and an area for peace and quiet.

The MMP Support Group have done an amazing job to turning a vacant piece of public land into a town asset.

Your Sincerely,

To whom it may concern,

The Meredith Police Paddocks (MPP) stand to be an incredible and unique asset to the Meredith community and to the public in general. The paddocks provide safe walking tracks as the current foot paths throughout the township are very limited and disconnected (especially to areas like the skate park, oval, and playground). The paddocks also provide a space of respite for all, and a place of adventure and play for the youth of the community. Local flora, fauna, and wildlife are able to flourish and be admired due to the efforts of a few locals maintaining the area. This in turn creates a space of education for anyone visiting the MPP.

I personally run through the paddocks every second day and my family often walk the various tracks. Our property directly adjoins the MPP and we have open paddocks ourselves along the creek line. Despite this, we love the activities we do in the MPP and there is no space in Meredith which can replicate it.

As a proud Warumungu man from the Northern Territory, myself and my children miss the connection to country we have when we are there. As the Aboriginal significance overlay includes part of our property and more importantly the MPP, we feel a great deal of connection, a great amount of pride, and a sense of healing relating to our Aboriginal heritage when we view and interact with the MPP.

Stating the loss of such an asset to the community, the wildlife, and to my family as devastating would not be an understatement. The MPP is greatly appreciated by the community, as would be the efforts of the Golden Plains Shire, should they choose to back their community and invest in this culturally beautiful asset.

Thank-you for taking the time to hear the voices of your shire,

Daniel Measures

Dear golden plains shire,
My name is Nevach Measures. I am a aborigine girl who is 8 years old and lives in meredith. for 8 years I have used the police paddocks for walking, picnics with my friends and family building cubby's with my friends and playing. Its a magical place where I go to connect with nature and the country. I love walking around watching the birds. → be

going across the rivers. Exploring and climbing trees and learning about history.

please don't take the police paddocks away from me, my brother, sisters, family and my friends in meredith.

From Nevach Measures.

If you would like to learn more or just get in touch, drop us a line at meredith.police.paddocks@gmail.com or leave a message on our Facebook Page

Kerrie Kruger's

Simple Living



May you touch dragonflies and stars, dance with fairies and talk to the moon

The irises, valerian, holyhocks and daisies are putting on a beautiful show, the roses are budding up, the fruit trees and berries are in blossom. The baby maggots are keeping their parents busy, wrens are finding mates and making nests and the sun when it shines reminds us that Spring is slowly coming.

And no doubt about it the 'weeds' are growing, but don't stress about the 'mess', as long as its productive its beautiful and to be rejoiced. If you have planned your garden well, it will be providing not just food but also supplying ingredients for health and wellbeing.

Set up systems that look after themselves, - look to nature it doesn't have manicured edges, but it looks after all that live within it.

Fairies are invisible and inaudible like angels but their magic sparkles in nature. - Lynn Holland.

One of my favourite systems are our herbal patches. They look after themselves with abundance and generously give us the ingredients that become the bases of our Herbal Kit.

What is herbal first aid?

Herbal first aid has the advantage of using materials that are widely available, like kitchen spices, weeds, wild plants and from the herb patch. Using natural remedies, we are connecting ourselves to the wisdom of past generations who relied on herbal medicine, (a time before the big pharmaceutical company's made healing and health about making money). It is empowering to know we can take care of ourselves with simple homemade treatments.

Come fairies, take me out of this dull world. For I would ride with you upon the wind and dance upon the mountains like a flame. - W.B Yeats,

There are so many healing herbs, that are extremely effective, abundant, and easy to find, easy to grow, and have a long safety record. A few to include in the garden and your herbal first aid kit are:

Yarrow applied can stop the bleeding of cuts, scrapes, bruises – Grind fresh or dried yarrow leaves and add a small amount of cool boiled water to create a paste. Apply directly to the wound and replace as needed every few minutes until the bleeding stops. After cleaning the wound, apply plantain poultice and cover with a bandage to promote healing.

Fresh or dried plantain leaves apply to insect bites – ground with a small amount of cool boiled water, can provide rapid inflammation and itch relief. Plantain is also good for splinters apply as a poultice and cover. Replace the poultice when it becomes dry. Plantain has a strong "drawing" effect and will help ease the removal of

the splinter.

Aloe vera gel, fresh from a leaf, is good for Sunburn it can be applied directly to burns for cooling relief.

Comfrey's original name, knitbone, is self-explanatory its leaves and roots are used as a poultice to heal burns, sprains, swelling, and bruises.

Calendula you need to extract the oil from petals by infusing them in a carrier oil (jojoba, almond, olive) for up to a month. The oil then has antifungal, anti-inflammatory, and antibacterial properties that make it useful in healing wounds, soothing eczema, and relieving nappy rash. The carrier oil is added to beeswax, shea butter and few drops of an essential oil for fragrance, I like peppermint, lemon, or eucalyptus. Perfect for rashes, sunburn, swelling, eczema, acne, stings, wounds, burns, scrapes, and cold sores.

Sage once called the "thinker's tea", sage has been shown to enhance memory, relieve sore throats, and alleviate painful cramping in the stomach. Sage is also anti-bacterial and a natural antiseptic. So, drink sage tea and your sore throat will thank you

To Make Sage Tea: Pour 1 cup of hot water over 1 teaspoon of dried sage or 2 teaspoons of fresh leaves. Steep for 10 minutes and strain.

Lemon is all about strengthening the immune system against the germs that cause cold and flu. Squeezing a whole lemon into a glass of hot water with a large spoonful of honey makes a soothing drink for when you have a cough or cold. The honey can help suppress coughs, especially at night which keep you awake.

As with everything about living a simple life, it connects you, it grounds you to the Earth and her abundance in providing what we need to survive and thrive, and as to the perceived weedy mess that my garden is, as my friend Winnie the Pooh says, 'One of the advantages of being disorganised is that one is always having surprising discoveries'

So, may you have many surprising discoveries, including maybe an elf or a fairy or two, as you inhale the richness that comes from time spent in the magic of the herb garden.

Believe in your heart that you're meant to live a life full of passion, purpose, magic and miracles. – Roy T. Bennett


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New patients welcome

Vale to James William (Willie)

Nolan 28/11/1942 – 30/9/2021

Marg Cooper

Willie was born half an hour before his identical twin brother, Peter to Jim and Bessie Nolan of Grandview, Cargarie, just out of Meredith. John was their older brother. The brothers were best of friends and got up to lots of mischief when they were young. Willie and Peter boarded in Meredith to attend St Joseph's School and boarded in Geelong to attend St Mary's Technical School where they starred in the 1957 Under 15 Football Team.

After leaving school after year 8 Willie worked on Grandview, for local farmers and went away shearing to NSW and around Victoria. He worked hard and played hard. Apparently the twins had huge fun at dances and balls in Meredith by swapping jackets or ties to completely confuse the girls with whom they were dancing. In 1967 he bought the property Wahrang and married Helen Gleeson. They had a family of Jane, Andrew and Marcus. His big brother John had married Helen's sister, Mary. He worked in partnership with brother John for many years as well as working in local shearing sheds. Willie was good at stock work and John was good at maintenance. Later he and Helen bought the property Castlewood on Coopers Road. In 1999 Wahrang was sold and Willie moved to Geelong and eventually into a unit in Camden Road in Newtown where he stayed for about 15 years until he became a resident in the TLC The Belmont Nursing Home.

Willie was a character. His strong Irish background gave him a great sense of fun and hospitality and a love of music, a beer and a good yarn. In the shearing sheds he was at his best, talking football, local news, betting on races and keeping out of the way of the Union Representative who used to visit sheds to make sure that all workers had a Union Ticket. One year at Kialla the Union Rep asked Willie what his job was. Willie replied that he was not part of the team but was there to fix the press. As the Union Rep left he asked Willie if he'd be at the shed next week. Willie replied that if the press still needed fixing he'd still be there. (They were playing games because Willie was the wool presser but didn't want to buy a ticket.)

A big entertainment room, nicknamed the *Meredith Casino*, was added to their house at Wahrang in the late 1980's. Willie, a keen cricketer, would invite members of the Meredith teams to his home after the games; food and drinks would be enjoyed, cards and pool would be played and every ball and stroke of the days play would be replayed with lots of banter. For the young players who won three A Grade Premierships it was a home away from home. Willie gave heaps and they gave it back in spades! People were drawn to Willie because he always had time for them. Meeting strangers or overseas travellers in the Meredith Pub often led to Willie inviting them home for a meal and somewhere to stay.

Willie was an institution at the Country Fairs where he and John or Peter spruiked from the back of a truck, selling tickets for the spinning wheel. In fact the Nolan brothers became an important part of the day's entertainment! He was a born entertainer and always looked for the fun in any

situation. He'd put false bids in at clearing sales, he was an avid Geelong supporter but didn't like any of the coaches and he never let the truth get in the way of a good story. And he enjoyed his smokes. Willie was a true-blue Aussie who enjoyed a full life.

A Celebration of Willie's Life was held at St Joseph's on October 7. Due to Covid regulations only 20 people were allowed in the church. The family were pleased that Paul Nolan who works for King's Funerals and is the son of Willie's cousin Martin, spoke personally at the graveside. The eulogies were presented by Willie's children Jane, Andrew (from Bristol) and Marcus and great friend and fellow cricketer, Barry Shaw. After the burial 30 people enjoyed a late lunch at the Royal Hotel. Marcus brought out his guitar and he had the whole room singing along with him to some of Willie's favourite songs.

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Vale to Betty Billingham

June/1932-26/9/2021

Marg Cooper

Betty's son Simon and daughter in law Nadine have supplied a potted history of Betty's life.

Betty was born in 1932 in Hyde, Cheshire, UK

She had one older sibling, James (died in 1974)

Betty was raised in a pub from 1939 which was managed by her father, Stevenson Wilkinson, the Railway Hotel in Walsden, UK

Betty's mum, Constance Mary, ran the letting of rooms and most other functions at the pub

They had a dog named Pilot who Betty used to wander the moors with as a girl

Betty's first job was at a kindergarten

Betty later worked at a textile weaving company in Littleborough, UK, Fothergill & Harvey, where she met her husband, Ken whom she married in 1953

Their only child, Simon, was born at maternity home in 1956 in Rochdale, UK

In 1961 the family of three migrated to Australia, departing UK 27 Feb 1961, travelling via ship, the Fairsea, and arriving in Sydney on 3 April 1961.

In Sydney, the family lived in St Peters before moving to Rockdale to live in a caravan park in an onsite caravan that Ken built himself for the purpose. Betty first worked in a sports goods store called Mick Simonds in Haymarket before going to work for chemical company ICI at ICI House at Circular Quay, then later moving to their office and site in Botany where she remained until her retirement in July 1994

Ken and Betty bought a block of land at Wingham, near Taree in Northern NSW where they built a 'holiday home' in the late 1970's, that would eventually be their retirement home when they both finished work. They used to travel to their Wingham home regularly for weekends and annual leave prior to their retirement.

While living in Sydney, the entire family became very involved in target shooting, joining the Sydney Naval Establishments Rifle Club.

Betty's mother, Constance (Connie) Mary Wilkinson, migrated to Australia in 1977. After Ken and Betty built their holiday home in Wingham, Connie moved in there, minding the home while Ken and Betty continued to work in Sydney

Betty suffered some health setbacks in 1986 when she had a brain aneurysm (being released from hospital on the day of her son's wedding in September 1986) and in 1990 and 1991 she had her hips replaced

Betty's first grandchild, Rhiannon was born in 1988 and her second, Morwenna, was born in 1995

Betty retired 15th July 1994 (Ken retired later in April 1995) and they sold up the onsite caravan in Rockdale, Sydney and moved permanently to Wingham

Betty's husband, Ken, passed away in 2001

In 2002, Betty sold her home in Wingham and moved to Geelong to be near her son, Simon and his family. She built a home on 1 acre in Lethbridge.



Betty became very involved in many local groups including the Geelong Spinners and Weavers (she and Ken had been involved in spinning/weaving while living in Wingham, which harked back to Ken's lifelong involvement in the textile industry) and local craft, patchwork and quilting groups including the Meredith Sew and Sews and Geelong's Purple Pixies patchwork group. Betty also developed an interest and talent in painting, joining the Meredith Art Group. Betty also joined the Inverleigh Ladies craft group, meeting

fortnightly in each other's homes for craft and gossip sessions. Betty has produced a large body of work over all these disciplines.

In 2003, Betty became a dog owner for the first time since her family dog, Pilot back in UK and became mum to Bodkin, who used to attend many of her craft groups with her. Bodkin passed away in 2016 and Lilybobbin, a rescue dog from Geelong Animal Welfare, came into Betty's life that same year. Lilybobbin has been a devoted companion to Betty and is adored by many. On Betty's passing, Lilybobbin (Lily) has joined Simon and Nadine's family with two dog 'sisters', Bayleigh and Lita. This was one of Betty's wishes that Lily would always have a home with us if anything ever happened to Betty.

Betty survived breast cancer in 2012 and a stroke in 2014. She sold up in Lethbridge following the stroke and built a smaller home on a more manageable block in Bannockburn in 2015

Betty turned 89 in June 2021

In late July 2021 Betty suffered a setback with her health and passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her son, Simon, daughter in law, Nadine and the three dogs on Sunday 26th September 2021, what would have been hers and Ken's 68th wedding anniversary.

Simon and Nadine are planning a remembrance get together in Betty's memory later in the year once COVID restrictions ease.



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Vale to Leo James Leverett

23/5/1929 – 6/10/2021

Marg Cooper

A Celebration of the Life of Leo James Leverett was held at Our Lady of the Way Church, Kingsbury on October 15 followed by a burial in the Meredith Cemetery.

Leo was the 8th of eleven children of William Joseph and Theresa Leverett. At birth he was not much over three pounds in weight. He was always small but tough. He was nicknamed Lofty! He grew up on his parent's farm at Beremboke, went to the local school until he was 14 years of age then started working on the family farm. He also worked for the Geelong Water Trust. The family farm was next door to the Stoney Creek Reservoirs. His grandfather worked there, his father worked there and Leo worked there.

Leo had a great ear for music. His mother taught him to play the piano. He could play the mouth organ from the age of six years and at the age of 12 he was loaned a saxophone.

At the age of 14 a local pianist heard him play and invited him to play at a Deb Ball in Bacchus Marsh. His mother had to buy him his first pair of long pants for this performance and his brother was jealous because he earned a similar amount for the night's work as the brother earned cutting wood for a day.



At 27, Leo married Molly Grant of Meredith, who was a well-known pianist. They lived in Meredith in the Grant family home on the corner of Wallace and Wilson Street which is now the Meredith Roadhouse. Nearly every weekend Leo and Molly would play at local dances and balls. Leo said that some of the hall pianos were in terrible condition and may

have only been opened once a year. Leo drove a school bus from Meredith to Geelong for TransOtway. Molly died in 1969 and Leo left Meredith in 1971 and moved to Langwarrin where he continued to drive buses and play music.

Leo married Carmel Brown in 1973 and they lived in the caravan park at Frankston for 21 years before moving into a unit in Langwarrin. Leo retired after 35 years of bus driving. He volunteered at St Vincent De Paul and they enjoyed travelling around Australia. Carmel died in 2009.

In his final years Leo moved into Vasey House Nursing Home in Ivanhoe where he was able to live alongside his sister, Gwen, for a short time before she died. He was moved to the Brighton home after Ivanhoe closed. The day before he died he was having trouble talking but he still easily managed a

tune on the mouth organ for a birthday of a staff member of the nursing home.

Leo always claimed that it was a good job he could play music as he couldn't dance a step! He was placid, loyal and kind. He was a gentleman who loved his family, friends and music.

Did You Hear the Chainsaw's Sing?

There was a great outdoor performance last month over a couple of days, when you could hear chainsaws singing in rough harmony all over the district. It followed the devastating winds, gusting up to 100 km/h (according to readings taken elsewhere) early on the 29th October. Apart from putting the power out for a few hours, we hope you and your property were not harmed in the onslaught



Below: a healthy, mature eucalypt at the editor's home, laid down in the fierce wind.

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Community Garden News

It has been a challenging 2021 for everyone having to deal with restrictions and lockdowns. As we start to open up again, the Meredith Community Garden is holding a working bee to bring the community together. Just bring some working gloves or if you have a drill – bring that along as well! Still plenty of garden beds to build, dirt to move and planting to be done. This project is an outcome of a broader program called “Nurturing Young Minds” that was funded by the Geelong Community Foundation and Golden Plains Youth. The program was delivered by local charity Hands of Change Limited and the garden will be handed over to the community at the end of this year. Stay tuned for further details about the Launch Event in December 2021.



Solar Panels Installed

Media Release

As part of the Berrybank Wind Farm's Community Engagement and Benefit Sharing Plan, solar panels have been installed on a number of Council - and community - owned facilities, including the Meredith Community Centre, Woody Yaloak Kindergarten, Northern Community Centre, Inverleigh Early Learning Centre, Haddon Kindergarten, Teesdale Children's Centre and Bannockburn Family Services Centre.

The 195 panels across the seven sites are expected to reduce the carbon footprint of the community buildings by 98.5 tonnes per year. Global Power Generation Australia appointed Off-Grid Energy Australia to deliver the solar panels at the seven facilities in Golden Plains Shire.

The \$170,500 solar program from Berrybank Wind Farm's developers Global Power Generation Australia (GPG) will also see solar systems installed on low-income housing in Golden Plains Shire.

Golden Plains Shire Mayor Cr Helena Kirby welcomed the installation of solar panels at the local community facilities.

"Council was very pleased to work with Global Power Generation Australia to see seven of our community facilities in Meredith, Scarsdale, Inverleigh, Haddon, Teesdale and Bannockburn go solar.

"Council is committed to playing our part in reducing the emissions, and it's great to see our community benefiting with more wind and solar energy thanks to the Berrybank Wind Farm."

Berrybank Wind Farm's Community Engagement Officer Nathan Micallef said GPG is proud to make a lasting positive impact to the local communities surrounding the wind farm.

Construction is complete on Stage 1 of the Berrybank Wind Farm, with 24 wind turbines built in the south-west of Golden Plains Shire and 19 over the border in Corangamite Shire. Construction recently began on Stage 2 of the wind farm and will see a further 9 turbines built in Golden Plains Shire and 17 in Corangamite Shire.





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